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ABSTRACT

Criteria have been developed to determine the adequacy of public library services and establish priorities for awarding grants to municipalities under the Library Services and Construction Act. Special groups designated for funding consideration under Title I include municipalities in low-income areas, institutional residents, and physically handicapped persons. Priorities for library construction under Title II are based on the adequacy of existing facilities, the availability of local financial resources, and membership in regional library systems. Librarians are encouraged to organize interlibrary loan networks which will be funded under Title III, with funding priority given to cooperative groups of three or more libraries. (JAB)

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MASSACHUSETTS BASIC STATE PLAN FOR LIBRARY PROGRAMS

under

Library Services and Construction Act, As Amended

STATEMENT OF CRITERIA

IR0005615

Massachusetts Basic State Plan for Library Programs
under
Library Services and Construction Act, as amended

STATEMENT OF CRITERIA

Title I - Adequacy of Public Library Services

The basic criteria used for determining adequacy of public library services are the standards as promulgated in Minimum Standards for Public Library Systems, 1966 and any supplements as adopted by the Public Library Association of the American Library Association. According to these standards, all public library services are considered inadequate.

Proposals for funding under LSCA may be submitted to the state library agency by individual libraries, groups of libraries or the regional public library systems; proposals may also be initiated by the state library agency itself.

An award of an LSCA project grant to any municipality within the Commonwealth is contingent upon the participation of the municipality in the Direct State Aid Grant Program, unless the state library agency waives the requirement for specific statewide programs. Wherever possible, priority for municipal grant awards will be given to municipalities with high unemployment rates and/or a high percentage of low-income individuals and families.

Determination of Urban and Rural Areas with High Concentration of Low-Income Families

Municipalities with high unemployment rates and a high percentage of low income families have been identified by means of an Unemployment/Poverty Index developed by the state library administrative agency. This index is based on raw data from the following sources:

1. Labor Force Unemployment Statistics - unpublished monthly data made available to the state library administrative agency by the Massachusetts Division of Employment Security.
2. The Municipal Yearbook - an annual publication of the International City Management Association. Contains municipal poverty figures based on U.S. Census thresholds.
3. Characteristics of the Population: Massachusetts. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Issued 02/73.

The following data sources will be used to supplement ranking by index:

1. Employment and Wages in Establishments Subject to the Massachusetts Employment Security Law. Annual. Massachusetts Division of Employment Security. --Data on wages paid by employers in each municipality, though not necessarily to residents of that municipality.

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2. Area Trends in Employment and Unemployment. Quarterly. U.S. Department of Labor. --For identification of Labor Market Areas (not municipalities) with persistent unemployment.
3. Characteristics of Applicants Registered in Employment Services Offices and Selected Employment Service Activities Quarterly. Massachusetts Division of Employment Security. --For area identification of ethnic and occupational characteristics of unemployed.

Priorities for funding:

1. Programs and services for residents in low income areas. Priority A will be assigned to projects which develop and provide services to the following specific groups: persons with limited English-speaking ability or who are non-English speaking, the elderly, and the unemployed. Priority B will be assigned to projects which improve library services in general in low income areas.
2. Programs and materials which will result in the general improvement of all libraries to bring them up to standard. Generally these projects will be regional projects.
3. Innovative programs which will demonstrate services not generally available in Massachusetts or provide a new approach to a service.
4. In funding projects, priority will be given as follows: in communities of under 25,000 population to those municipalities who have received a total of less than \$10,000 during the past 5 years; in communities of 25,000 or over to those municipalities who have received a total of less than \$50,000 during the past five years.

State Institutional Library Service

Eligible for service are the inmates, patients, or residents of penal institutions, reformatories, residential training schools, orphanages or general or special institutions or hospitals operated or substantially supported by the State and/or students in residential schools for the physically handicapped (including mentally retarded, hard of hearing, deaf, speech impaired, visually handicapped, seriously emotionally disturbed, crippled, or other health-impaired persons who by reason thereof require special education) operated or substantially supported by the State. Substantially supported by the state means receiving at least 51% of its support from the state.

Criteria for determining adequacy of services to specific groups will be national standards as follows:

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Standards for Library Services in Health Care Institutions as adopted by the Association of Hospital and Institution Libraries of the American Library Association, 1970.

Manual of Correctional Standards 3rd ed. 1966, Chapter 31 "Library Services."

Standards for Residential Facilities for the Mentally Retarded by Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, 1971.

Standards for Library Functions at the State Level, 1970 as adopted by the American Association of State Libraries of the American Library Association.

Priorities for funding:

1. Improvement of existing facilities; that is facilities in which there is a staff member assigned to the library, a library budget, and evidence of administrative and staff support. All other things being equal, priority will be given to the institutions serving the greatest number of persons.
2. Establishment of libraries in institutions in which there is evidence of staff support and administrative support via the provision of a budget for staff and materials.
3. Projects which will enhance the library programs of all eligible institutions by making available to them such services as inter-library loan and/or such materials as films.

Physically Handicapped

Eligible for service are those persons certified by competent authority as unable to read or use conventional printed materials as a result of blindness and/or eligible physical limitations.

The adequacy of services offered by the Regional and Subregional Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped will be determined in relation to the Guidelines for Regional Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and Guidelines for Subregional Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, issued by the Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in January 1977 and February 1976 respectively.

Priorities for funding:

1. Provide grants to libraries or agencies which will provide a specialized area-wide service for the handicapped.
2. Provide grants to libraries which have unusual opportunities to develop expertise in serving the handicapped.
3. Provide via the regional systems the specialized materials and equipment needed to assist public libraries to make available to the handicapped in so far as possible the full range of

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3. (continued) library services available to other patrons.
All other things being equal, priority will be given to the purchase of materials and equipment which will benefit the greatest number.
4. Provide grants to the Perkins Schools and/or the Mass. Commission for the Blind for materials and equipment which will supplement the L.C. Program for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Title II - Public Library Construction

The criteria and definitive priorities which apply to administering Title II in Massachusetts are similar to those used for Title I with the addition of the Interim Standards for Small Public Libraries (A.L.A., Chicago, 1962). They are predicated on national library developments; professional thinking in the library field; complementing, supplementing and further developing the state-aided programs of regional public library systems and assisting areas of high poverty incidence where there are groups of disadvantaged and culturally deprived citizens not adequately served by public library facilities.

In awarding Federal aid funds the following priorities will be assigned to public library construction projects insofar as possible and/or necessary.

Priority I Central library buildings in those municipalities which are participating in both the direct state-aid grant program and the regional public library systems programs, but which do not have the financial resources to provide adequate library facilities for their residents.

Priority II Central library buildings for communities where long established public library services have been temporarily interrupted due to circumstances beyond the local municipality's control (e.g. fire or other building emergencies).

Priority III Central library buildings in municipal library systems serving as headquarter libraries, regional or sub-regional centers in the three state-aided regional public library systems.

Priority IV Branch library buildings within a municipal public library system serving a population of 50,000 or more. Generally a low priority will be accorded branch construction with the exception of those branches which service the under-privileged, the economically and culturally deprived neighborhoods in large urban and/or Model Cities areas.

Within each of the above priorities special consideration will be given to projects located in disadvantaged areas and which have not previously received a grant under the Title II program.

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Title III - Interlibrary Cooperation

Purpose: To stimulate the coordination of all types of libraries and special information centers to provide a statewide network for resource sharing. Librarians are encouraged to use an innovative approach in designing a program of cooperative activities.

Priorities:

1. A group consisting of three or more types of libraries having the following characteristics:
 - a. formal organization of dues-paying members with a paid director;
 - b. a blend of libraries including emerging institutions as well as established ones and in which the more adequate assist the less adequate.
 - c. a regional group coordinating services of multiple communities;
 - d. a planned, sequential program of cooperative activities with a built-in plan of evaluation;
2. A group consisting of at least two types of libraries having the same characteristics as priority #1.
3. A group consisting of at least two types of libraries which does not have all the characteristics of priority #1 but in which the potential is present.

STATEMENT OF CRITERIA

Eligible Low Income Areas in Massachusetts, LSCA, FY 1978

Communities in the Eastern Region

Amesbury	Everett	Lynn	Revere
Barnstable	Fairhaven	Mashpee	Rockport
Billerica	Fall River	Merrimac	Salem
Boston	Gloucester	Methuen	Somerville
Brockton	Harwich	Middleborough	Swansea
Carver	Haverhill	Millville	Taunton
Dartmouth	Hull	New Bedford	Tewksbury
Dunstable	Lawrence	Orleans	Wareham
Edgartown	Lowell	Provincetown	Yarmouth

Communities in the Central Region

Athol	Leominster	Palmer	Royalston
Clinton	Milford	Phillipston	Southbridge
Gardner			Webster

Communities in the Western Region

Adams	Florida	Holyoke	Tolland
Agawam	Greenfield	New Ashford	Tyrington
Cumington	Hardwick	North Adams	

COMMUNITIES IN MASSACHUSETTS ELIGIBLE FOR LSCA PRIORITY FUNDING IN FY1978
BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF LIMITED OR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING PERSONS RESIDING
IN THIER COMMUNITY:

Boston
Cambridge
Chelsea
Fall River

Framingham
Holyoke
Lawrence

Lowell
New Bedford
Somerville

Springfield
Taunton
Worcester